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TREATMENT REQUIREMENT OF NONINFESTED HOLLAND NARCISSUS BULBS AS A CONDITION
OF ENTRY REVOKED

On January 14, 1935, as authorized in regulation 3, as revised on said date, of the Rules and Regulations Supplemental to Notice of Quarantine No. 37, the announcement was made that on and after December 15, 1936, narcissus bulbs would be authorized entry under permit in unlimited numbers for any purpose, subject to inspection and certification in the country of origin and reinspection at the port of entry in the United States with the understanding that any shipments found to be infested would be rejected. At the same time, revocation of the domestic Narcissus Bulb Quarantine No. 62 was announced, effective April 1, 1935.

On August 1, 1936, in accordance with the authority contained in regulation 9 of said Notice of Quarantine No. 37, it was further announced that, as a condition of entry, the treatment of narcissus bulbs would be required since external examination of these bulbs could not be relied upon to determine their freedom from infestation by the bulb nematode, Ditylenchus dipsaci. Those in interest were informed in a circular issued September 16, 1936, of the "latest approved treatment" to be employed with respect to all entries of narcissus bulbs.

Since it was a matter of record that imported and domestic bulbs other than narcissus were known hosts of the bulb nematode, a conference was held in Washington on December 15, 1936, to consider the desirability of treating all known hosts of the bulb nematode enterable under the Nursery Stock, Plant, and Seed Quarantine No. 37. The following day, December 16, 1936, a hearing was held to consider the advisability of establishing a domestic plant quarantine for the purpose of requiring the treatment of narcissus bulbs and other known hosts of the bulb nematode as a prerequisite to interstate shipment. On February 15, 1937, it was announced that the evidence presented at the conference indicated that the bulb nematode risk which accompanies the importation of most ornamental bulbs which have been inspected in the country of origin, supplemented by inspection at the port of entry in the United States, does not justify the requirement that all known hosts of this nematode be treated as a condition of entry. No change in the requirements as to importation of narcissus bulbs was announced at that time. While no public announcement has been made with reference to the conclusion reached as the result of the hearing on December 16, 1936, no Federal domestic quarantine has been promulgated requiring the treatment of narcissus bulbs and other known hosts of the bulb nematode as a condition of interstate shipment.

At the request of the Netherlands Government, a committee of technical experts representing the governments of the Netherlands and of this country was appointed for the purpose of considering on the ground, in Holland, the necessity of requiring the hot-water treatment of Holland narcissus bulbs as a condition of entry into the United States. This committee held a series of meetings in Holland, during the month of April 1938, most of which took place in the narcissus bulb fields where every opportunity was afforded to inspect



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the bulbs as to foliage or by lifting them, and to observe the cultural practices and sanitary measures employed in an effort to reduce the bulb nematode infestation to the minimum. The field examinations revealed an almost complete absence of bulb nematode infestations in the narcissus plantings. In view of this condition and the sanitary measures practiced, which involve repeated field examinations during the growing season, supplemented by inspection and certification of the bulbs at the time of shipment, it is evident, so long as the above conditions exist, that the bulb nematode risk incident to the importation of Holland narcissus bulbs does not justify the continuation of the requirement that all importations of these bulbs be given the hot-water treatment as a condition of entry. This requirement, therefore, will not be in effect on and after August 15, 1939. On and after that date, all such importations, in accordance with the provisions of regulation 7 of the Nursery Stock, Plant, and Seed Quarantine No. 37, shall be accompanied by a certificate certifying that the bulbs have been thoroughly inspected at the time of packing and found or believed to be free of injurious plant diseases and insect pests. Finally, upon arrival at the American ports of entry, all shipments will be examined by inspectors of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and this examination will include the cutting of suspicious-looking bulbs when necessary to determine their freedom from infestation by the bulb nematode. Any shipments found to be infested will be given the latest approved treatment or rejected.

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